

cultural performers possessing some degree of agency in terms of choices and actions from the 1880s and 1920s, what is missing from the narrative to highlight and support this assumption are the actual Inuit voices – their thoughts, impressions, and ideas concerning how they viewed their actions and decisions. Although Zwick manages to piece together a history and series of stories culled from articles that appeared in newspapers and magazines, or were written into pamphlets and postcards created for exhibits and other venues like the “dime store museums,” narrative falls short of his objective. In the end, what we do have is a solid narrative regarding a series of events that can be discussed, even surmised, through Zwick’s research that put all of these sources into a single format.

Edward Charles Valandra. *Not without Our Consent: Lakota Resistance to Termination, 1950-59*. Foreword by Vine Deloria, Jr. (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2006). xxiii, 287 pp., \$35 cloth.

Although South Dakota is the home territory of many Lakota, Dakota and Nakota nations, it has often been a dangerous place to be an Indian, especially in the western half of the state, where most of the tribal lands lie. Ranchers, miners and others have a long history of trying to lay claim to those lands, using, alternately, quasi-legal and violent means.

In this very-well-researched work, Professor Valandra shows that: 1) In the mid-1950s, South Dakota legislators, in collusion with white US Congressmen and white ranchers, used and abused federal laws to take control and/or ownership of tribal lands, masking their actions whenever possible with righteous rhetoric; and 2) Lakota leaders proved capable and courageous in response, taking the risky path of initiating a statewide election in a mostly anti-Indian climate on the issue of whether the state should assume jurisdiction over tribal lands.

The first chapters of the book set the stage by discussing the

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continuing effects – on Lakota people and on tribal land holdings and economies in South Dakota – of Congress’ breaking up and selling tribal lands, terminating tribes, and allowing states to assume jurisdiction over tribal reservations. Valandra uses primary sources to prove that the criteria put forward in Congress as rationales for their actions had nothing to do with real life and everything to do with racist views of Indians as not worthy of owning possibly valuable lands that white ranchers could be using to profit themselves.

The racist nature of various Acts and policies of the Termination Era in the 1950s and 1960s were masked in honorable terms, such as Utah Senator Arthur Watkins’ pronouncement that, as a result of termination, “THESE PEOPLE SHALL BE FREE!” (21) On the other hand, many actions and justifications were obviously, and often quite blatantly and unashamedly, racist, as South Dakota’s elected state and federal legislators demonstrated.

Valandra tells the story of Lakota resistance to the South Dakota legislature’s attempts to assume jurisdiction over their reservations. Despite the fact that South Dakota was one of the most overtly racist states in the US, the tribes pushed ahead and convinced the majority of state voters that it would be against their interests to govern the tribes.

As an Oglala born and raised on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, I am familiar with the general history of land theft, treaty abrogation, allotment, forced leases and forced fee patents. However, Professor Valandra’s research is fresh, including little-used government documents, the papers of a former South Dakota senator and governor, and the papers of former Rosebud Tribal Council members.

I look forward with anticipation to the continuation of this research, that is, a discussion of the victorious Lakota campaign against a followup attempt by South Dakota in 1964 to wrest jurisdiction from the tribes, in spite of the successful tribal-led referendum only seven years earlier.

The book includes a chronology of pertinent events in law and history from 1830 to 1966; the texts of relevant state senate and house bills is included.